Institute for Disaster Management in Bhopal

†2566. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal/recommendations to establishing a Biological Institution for the long term study and research on ill effects of Bhopal Gas tragedy and to set up a national level institution for Disaster Management in Bhopal has been received by Government;

(b) if so, by when Government are going to take decision in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor by Government despite the fact that Bhopal suffered the most frightening Industrial accident Bhopal Gas tragedy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The proposal for establishing a Biological Institute has been received with the request that it could be funded from the unspent money lying with Reserve Bank of India out of the compensation money given by the Union Carbide Company. According to Supreme Court directions, the money received from the Union Carbide is earmarked for paying compensation to the Bhopal Gas victims. All the compensation claims have not yet been decided. On the proposal of setting up a National level institution on Disaster Management, the State Government has been advised to take up the matter with the concerned Ministry in the Central Government.

FPI delegations abroad

2567. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delegations connected with Food Processing Industries were sent to foreign countries during the last two years, for co-operation and development, in view of the growing global competition in the Food Processing Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what subjects of mutual interest were discussed with them;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(c) the names of the countries with whom trade agreements were entered into by them and the details of each of the trade agreements; and

(d) the assistance expected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following delegations visited foreign countries for the promotion of Food Processing Industries:—

(i) A delegation led by Minister of State for Food Processing Industries (Independent Charge) visited New Zealand from 28th May 2001 to 1st June 2001 accompanied by Industry Members as well as Government officials.

(ii) A delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce had visited Johannesburg from 18th July to 23rd July 2001. Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries also was a member of the delegation.

(iii) Secretary, Food Processing Industries visited as leader of the Agri Business Mission of Confederation of Indian Industry to European Union and USA from 22nd July to 29th July 2000.

(iv) A Government cum Trade delegation led by Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Brussels and London in May 2002.

(v) A delegation of meat exporters led by Chairman, Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, had visited Jordan and Egypt between 13th to 17th April 2001.

The subjects of mutual interest like increase in trade, better market access, Foreign Direct Investment in Food Processing Sector *etc.* were the main areas of discussions.

(c) No Trade Agreements as such were entered.

(d) Increased trade and investment is expected as the outcome of the delegation.